



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/758,284	01/16/2004	Tsuyoshi Kameda	074418-0128	5139
22428	7590	05/19/2005	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER SUITE 500 3000 K STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20007			VU, PHU	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2871	

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/758,284

Applicant(s)

KAMEDA, TSUYOSHI

Examiner

Phu Vu

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schwartz US Patent No. 5691962.

Regarding claim 1, Sekiguchi teaches a displaying apparatus comprising:

a liquid crystal displaying polarizing plate including a liquid crystal plate (fig. 5 element 14) and a polarizing plate (fig. 5 element 14a);

a light source (fig. 5 element 56) disposed on a back side of said liquid crystal displaying plate for emitting illumination light;

a dial plate (fig. 1 element 11) disposed on the front side of crystal displaying plate and including an optically transparent displaying section (fig. 1 element 11) capable of transmission of light;

said illumination light (fig. 5 element 56) illuminating said optically transparent displaying section by passing through said liquid crystal displaying plate

Regarding claim 2, the polarizing plate is cut out at a portion thereof overlapping said optically transparent display section. The cutout portion can be considered to be any element outside of area 13 in figure 2 as the polarizer is only formed over the liquid crystal displaying section (see fig. 5 element 14).

Regarding claim 4, the reference teaches a peripheral edge of the liquid crystal displaying plate (fig. 2 element 14) has an overlapping edge section overlapping said optically transparent section when viewed from the front. The reference shows the liquid crystal holding member for holding the peripheral edge cut out at a portion thereof overlapping a portion thereof is cut out overlapping said overlapping edge section. Figure 2 shows this and the cutout area is considered between element 21 and element 14.

Regarding claim 7, the reference teaches a peripheral edge of the liquid crystal displaying plate (fig. 1 element 13) has an overlapping edge section overlapping said optically transparent section when viewed from the front.

Regarding claims 5 and 8, the reference teaches a peripheral edge of the liquid crystal displaying plate (fig. 2 element 14) has an overlapping edge section overlapping said optically transparent section when viewed from the front. The reference shows the liquid crystal holding member for holding the peripheral edge cut out at a portion thereof overlapping a portion thereof is cut out overlapping said overlapping edge section. Figure 2 shows this and the cutout area is considered between element 21 and element 14. The limitation of an optically transparent member overlapping said edge section as view from a front is met because the cutout area can be considered a "transparent member" since there is no implied structure by this limitation.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

Art Unit: 2871

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schartz and in view of Platz US Publication No. 2002/0027620.

Schwartz teaches all the limitations of claims 3 and 6 except a liquid crystal displaying plate covering the whole on an optically transparent section. Platz teaches a liquid crystal plate covering the whole of an optically transparent section. Having a plate covering the entire optically transparent section increases the digital display area. Therefore, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a liquid crystal displaying plate to cover the whole of an optically transparent section in order to increase the digital display area. In addition the device allows different display configurations to be obtained as a function of the switching state (see [0064]). Therefore at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to use a liquid crystal displaying plate to cover the whole of an optically transparent section to allows different display configurations to be obtained as a function of the switching state.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phu Vu whose telephone number is (571)-272-1562.


The examiner can normally be reached on 8AM-5PM M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Kim can be reached on (571)-272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2871

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Phu Vu
Examiner
AU 2871



DUNG T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER